582

NEWS LETTER No. 6

8TH April, 1932 (Reprint invited. Acknowledgement will be appreciated.)

UNIVERSAL CHRISTIAN COUNCIL FOR LIFE AND WORK

INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN SOCIAL INSTITUTE

GENEVA, 2, RUE DE MONTCHOISY Tel. 27.060 Telegrams & Cables: Kirchenbund, Geneva.

† The Rt. Rev. Lord BISHOP of WINCHESTER, *Chairman.*
Dr. ADOLF KELLER, *General Secretary for Education & Extension.*
Dr. HENRY A. ATKINSON, *General Administrative Secretary*
PAUL H. STEELE, M. A., *Assistant Administrative Secretary*
Dr. HANS SCHÖNFELD, *Director of Research.*

Joint Presidents:

† The Rt. Rev. the Lord BISHOP of WINCHESTER
Representing The Most Rev. the Archbishop of Canterbury.
His Grace The METROPOLITAN of THYATEIRA,
Representing His Holiness the Oecumenical Patriarch.
The Rev. S. PARKES CADMAN, D.D.
D. Dr. H. KAPLER.

Associate Secretaries:

The Rev. P. T. R. KIRK (British Section), 4, The Sanctuary, London S.W.1.
D. Theol. Erich STANGE (European Section, German), Cassel-Wilhelmshöhe, Kirchstrasse 6.
M. le Pasteur J. JÉZÉQUEL (European Section, French), 3, Rue Desrenaudes, Paris 17e.
Prof. Dr. H. ALIVISATOS (Orthodox Section), 27, Voulis Str., Athens.
Rev. Henry SMITH LEIPER (American Section), Federal Council of Churches, 105 East, 22nd Street, New York

THE RT. REV. LORD BISHOP OF WINCHESTER, IN MEMORIAM

The Christian Church throughout the world mourns the loss of a great leader in the death of our President, the Bishop of Winchester. His broad outlook and generous sympathy endeared him to all who came in touch with him; and his influence extended far beyond his own Diocese or even the Church of England. He recognised the fundamental unity of Christendom, and was actively associated with the Christian Social Movement throughout the world. The Universal Christian Conference for Life and Work, which he served as a President, lay very close to his heart; and its members of all nationalities learned to know and respect him. Their best tribute to his memory is to give themselves with renewed zeal to the cause which he shared with them, namely the building of the Kingdom of God.

The presence at his funeral of the Metropolitan of Thyateira and of the Chaplain to the German Embassy, representing the Greek and the Lutheran Churches, illustrates a side of the Bishop of Winchester's character which has so far received but little public notice. The Bishop was the foremost Anglican, and indeed British, Church leader in all the work before and since the Stockholm Conference on Life and Work of 1925. At Stockholm he was one of the four joint presidents, and by general consent his chairmanship of the assembled 500 delegates of different nations and Churches was most effective as well as sympathetic. He gained everyone's confidence, and was both a leader and a peacemaker. He was extraordinarily patient—and just; and no work was too heavy

for him to undertake in settling a difficult problem. And there have been many difficult problems both at Stockholm and at the Universal Christian Council meetings since. And the quality which the Churchmen of other countries liked about him was his straightforwardness and a manner utterly free from pride. It may be that he was at times shy—it was modesty that made him so: but his friendship, whether with men of other nations and communions or of his own Church, was unfailing in its staunchness.

THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE AND WORLD PUBLIC OPINION

" The World is sick and tired of war, its staggering cost, its senseless futility and its dismal failure to make secure any nation or people. The world is in desolation today because of war and the war makers. Things are all wrong and will never be righted until the war system is abolished." This is what the deputations from peace organisations, women's clubs, the churches, schools, colleges, universities, and the labour unions told the delegates in a most impressive session of the Disarmament Conference on February 6th, 1932.

Whatever the cynic may say and however hard they may work who want to see the conference fail, and however difficult the problems may be, there can be no doubt that the common people of all lands are stirred up on this question and united as perhaps on no other issue that has presented itself to the mind of man in our day. If the common people had their say, arms would be slashed, and after all, these are they who pay the taxes out of their toil and who furnish most of the soldiers.

In his opening speech Mr. Henderson said that the delegates to this conference represent the totality of humanity; the will of one billion seven hundred million human beings scattered around the world. Through their spokesmen, some two hundred million of these expressed their views and united in one unanimous voice. The earnestness and determination of that group was best expressed in the worlds of one of the student speakers who said: " We refuse to march again toward the abyss like the blind led by the blind. Behind your deliberations stares down at us the spectre of death ".

At the first Hague Conference a few peace groups sent committees, but their voices were insignificant and their testimony feeble. What an advance has been made. At Geneva one hundred and fifty women, and many other delegates filed up to the tribune with their petitions and their convictions, and behind them were solid masses of men and women in all lands who have determined that something must be done.

The women had a huge petition with some eight million signatures. The other deputations had petitions, resolutions, and in some cases plans of procedure which their bodies had officially authorised them to present. This last was particularly true of the League of Nations Federation which, through their spokesman, Lord Cecil,

outlined an adequate scheme which, were it adopted, would, in a large measure, meet the expectation of universal public opinion.

The Churches and religious organisations of the world were represented by two speakers: Madame Steenbergh-Engeringh, president of the International Union of Catholic Women's Organisations, and Dr. Joachim Müller, the secretary of the Disarmament Committee of the Christian International Organisations centered in Geneva. This group is made up of the Universal Christian Council for Life and Work, the World Alliance for International Friendship through the Churches, the World's Alliance of Young Men's Christian Associations, the World's Young Women's Christian Association, the World Student Christian Federation, the Friends International Service and the International Fellowship of Reconciliation. In addition to these world agencies, Dr. Müller also presented the petitions and resolutions and urged the cause of peace through the reduction of armaments, in behalf of a large number of local congregations; the great national church bodies such as the Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, the French Protestant Church Federation, the German Church Federation, the Lambeth Conference, the National Free Church Council of England, the Swiss Evangelical Church Council, the Dutch Branch of the World Alliance, the American Branch of the World Alliance, the Churches of Wales and Monmouthshire, the Church in Victoria, the Church of Scotland, the Primitive Methodists, the Presbyterian Church of New Zealand, the Church of the Netherlands, the Salvation Army of Java, the Evangelical Churches of the Vaudoise, the Christian Catholic Church, the Federation of the Churches of Geneva, and the International Association for Promotion of Liberal Christianity. Practically all of these church bodies had prepared resolutions which were handed into the president of the conference, many of them by the special representative who had come to Geneva for this specific purpose.

" We do not fail ", said Dr. Müller in his address, " to take into account the vast areas of religious thought and activity that do not come within the realm of this committee, and we would not presume to speak in the name of all the churches and local religious groups that are affiliated with our international organisations. We do, however, in a broad way claim to represent in ideal, sentiment, and a common program on behalf of international peace and fellowship most of the churches of the Protestant world, a large proportion of the Eastern Orthodox Church, the Old Catholic Church and hundreds of agencies connected with the life of these churches in every continent ".

Continuing, he declared: " The disastrous effects of the War and of the increased menace of armed conflict between nations upon the whole structure and content of civilisation have compelled these bodies to address themselves directly to those tremendous problems which have brought you here.

All the churches and religious agencies have, in their petitions and resolutions, expressed in varying terms the same confident hope that it is possible to bring about now a speedy and effective reduction in world armaments.

CO-OPERATION OF THE CHRISTIAN WORLD ORGANISATIONS WITH THE DISARMAMENT CONFERENCE

Seven Christian World Organisations in Geneva, to present a united front, formed themselves into a special Committee and arranged for a series of lectures and discussions which extended over the first month of the Meeting of the World Conference. Almost daily sessions of the Committee were held. A series of services of prayer were arranged in the American Church and in the Church of the Madeleine. On each morning excepting Sunday a Conference convened in the Community House of the American Church, and here daily commentaries on the work of the World Conference were given by Mr. W. Arnold Forster, technical adviser to the National Peace Council in London, assisted from time to time by other speakers representing different nationalities. In this way the work of the Christian Group had a chance to express itself. There was a library, information bureau, a book store, all directed by this special Committee. In addition to this a small Committee was formed to represent the press and to make sure that a weekly letter went out to the Christian press of the various countries. In this way contact was made with several 100 papers and journals in Europe and America. The purpose of these writers has not been to give the usual information that is being sent out from Geneva, but to interpret the conference from the Christian point of view and to emphasize those features of progress which contained the most hope for the future.

THE EFFECTS OF THE WORLD CRISIS ON THE CHURCHES

The main features of the present world crisis, unemployment, indebtedness, lack of capital, have not only an effect on the economic life of the nations in general, but react also very seriously on the situation of the Churches. The increase of unemployment hits not only innumerable members of the Church, thus forcing the Churches to take special measures of help, but diminishes also to a great extent the money at the disposal of the Churches. Some of the Churches have scarcely one half of their former income and are finding it increasingly difficult to carry on their work. Many of the Institutes of Home Missions, Foreign Missions and the current budget of the Churches are thereby suffering seriously. In industrial districts unemployment has taken a catastrophic turn. In certain German, Austrian and Czechoslovakian parishes 95% of the members are workmen. For instance, almost the whole membership of the protestant parish of the unfortunate town of Steyr in Austria lost their work when the factories had to be closed down.

Just as Governments feel the heavy burden of debts weighing upon them, various Churches are forced to borrow money for current needs, thus mortgaging their fortune

and upsetting the equilibrium of many Churches and parishes. This is true in Belgium, Germany, Hungary and the whole of Eastern Europe.

To meet this pressing need the European Central Bureau for Church Relief has started an international Loan Association. It was founded on February 13th in Geneva with a view to granting loans at low interest to such Churches as need capital for maintaining their work or necessary repairs, and can offer certain securities.

THE DECLARATION OF THE CHURCHES WITH REGARD TO THE ECONOMIC WORLD CRISIS

The declaration of the Churches with regard to the Economic World Crisis has through the Christian press as well as through the daily papers of all shades reached a wide circle of public opinion. Especial attention was paid to the interdependance of international politics and the more and more threatening economic world crisis and also the call was passed on with much emphasis to the governments and nations of the world. In the meantime a recognition of such interdependance has revealed itself through the official co-operation of the governments. But the tragedy of the present situation is that the will to take further decisions has not yet been found or has not yet grown strong enough. To awaken and strengthen such a will, to avoid the development of even more serious difficulties and dangers is the aim of the common action of the Churches throughout the world expressed in mutual service of church members in their parishes, their countries and even beyond.

A testimony of the willingness of the Churches to prepare and arouse public opinion for *a comprehensive solution of the world problems* has been given by the recent declaration of English Church leaders, associated with eminent personalities from all classes, as well as by the special action of the American Federal Council of Churches and the other important religious societies of the United States in regard to the problems underlying the economic crisis and world indebtedness.

THE INTERNATIONAL STUDY CONFERENCE ON UNEMPLOYMENT

The International Study Conference on Unemployment will take place at Basle, April 25-30 th. It will call together Church leaders, economists, employers and employees as well as bankers from Germany, France, Great Britain, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States of America and from other European countries. The contributions of the national study conferences will give a basis for discussion on the fundamental changes of world economy and on world indebtedness, specially in so far as is directly or indirectly a result of the Great War and the years after and as it underlies the increasing complexity of world problems.

* * *

Following the Basle Study Conference, a small group will deal with *the theological problems of the social responsibility of the Churches*. After a short survey of the historical attitude of christianity towards these questions, the discussion will center round the present conception of a christian sociology within the different churches and denominations and the principal theological problems involved.

The suggestions of the Research Department for common action with regard to *an international regulation of non-industrial child-labour* have been submitted to the Churches in a report indicating the attitude of the governments towards this problem. The Research Department is also preparing in collaboration with other Christian organisations a memorandum, which will be submitted to the International Labour Conference, in April.

During the next weeks the Institute will publish a study *pamplet on the Stockholm Movement*, its development and its present work written in Hungarian. The author of this study pamphlet is the Rev. N. Makay, who was sent for several months as a collaborator of the Institute by the Hungarian Churches, and Bishop D. Ravasz of Budapest is making propaganda for this study paper within the Hungarian Churches.

THE NATIONAL STUDY CONFERENCES ON UNEMPLOYMENT

To educate public opinion for an understanding of the real facts and the decisions needed, study conferences on unemployment, called by the Churches, seek to create further cooperation in reaching concrete solutions of the world crisis—such conferences having been held recently in Germany, Holland, Sweden, Switzerland and other countries.

The Churches must feel some responsibility for every human distress, whose very existence indicates human guilt. This responsibility is especially great in face of the present unemployment, which affects the individual, the nation and the whole world. It is always the individual who in his suffering has aroused the Churches to their responsibility. But this distress of the individual has more and more become a national concern. All the existing class differences have increased to breaking point, especially when the causes of unemployment are obscure or at least seemed to be so. On the other hand this increase of unemployment seems to overreach itself, and produce a growing depreciation and destruction of national production, that is, the real wealth of the nation. This distress is growing daily with frightful regularity, as the necessary, but small maintenance of the unemployed involves increasing burdens on the still working industries, and thereby paralysing one living organism after another.

But nowhere are the causes and effects of such unemployment limited to one nation, but affect the whole world. Each nation both hinders and helps its neighbour. Where mutual help is missing, the distress of nations becomes a world distress, with mutual help present individual and world distress disappears. Conscious of this responsibility the national study conferences of the Churches are making preparation

for the international study conference at Basle and are seeking a solution of the underlying facts by a discussion of concrete methods.

The German study conference, held at the beginning of March in Berlin, was attended by Church representatives, economists, employers and employees. The work of the study conference, based on the outlines submitted by the Research Department, was directed to clarifying the special questions which had arisen from German economic policy of the last decade, and so prepared the German contribution to the Basle conference. The study conference specially dealt with the relation between rationalisation and unemployment. Also the expansion of home and foreign markets, the problem of capital and the war consequences were discussed in detail, in this way the basis for the discussion of the relation between the world crisis and world indebtedness was laid from the German side.

Similar conferences are being held during these weeks in Holland, Sweden and Switzerland.

The Swiss Study Conference has published the results of its deliberations in a pamphlet (Wanderer-Verlag, Zürich) under the title: The Churches and Unemployment. 3.500 copies, both in German and French, have been sent out to many parishes and through its influence some action has been taken by the different districts of Switzerland. Churches have made special collections for the unemployed in a number of places. A large Parish-House is just being built in Zürich, which is estimated, will cost 2.000.000 Swiss Frs, to provide work. Furthermore, some Church Associations, as for instance the Home Missions, agencies and parish associations, as well as youth organisations have provided heated rooms where the unemployed could meet for rest and conversation. The society " Pro Juventute " has made a large collection for the children of the unemployed, a part of which goes to children of the unemployed in Germany.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Bi-Annual Meeting of the Universal Christian Council.

The bi-annual Meetings of the Universal Christian Council on Life and Work will meet in Geneva on August 7-14th. The general agreement was that the Meeting shall be held in August and the exact date to be adjusted to the other ecumenical conferences. In agreement between the officials of the various groups, it is now decided that the following dates will be adhered to:

The Universal Christian Council, August 7-14.
The World Alliance of Churches, August 19-22.
The Committee on Faith and Order, August 24-31.

International Theological Seminary

Under the auspices of the Faculty of Theology of the University of Geneva, an International Theological Seminary is planned from July 15th to August 15th in Geneva, where present theological tendencies and the various problems of the ecumenical movement will be discussed.

Youth Study Week

The third Social Study Week, under the auspices of the Youth Commission of the Universal Christian Council for Life and Work will be held at Gland on the lake of Geneva from August 26th on the following subjects: The attitude of youth to the Church, to Peace and A New Economic Order.

Mr. Bauhofer, who has been connected with the Institute since its very inception, and for the last two years has been working as theological collaborator in the Department of Research, has resigned his position, and his resignation has been accepted. For some time Mr. Bauhofer has felt that his sympathies and thinking were leading him in a new direction. He has rendered splendid service to the Institute, and as he now goes from this work, it is with the best wishes of his many friends.

Publications

1. News Letter, quarterly in English, French and German, of the activities of the Council and Institute (gratis).
2. Memorial Pamphlet to the late Archbishop of Upsala. Limited edition. (gratis).
3. The Churches and the Welfare of Seamen. Studies and Documents, English series No. 3. (gratis).
4. The Churches and Present-day Economic Problems. Studies and Documents. English series No. 4. Price 6*d*. or 20 cents a copy. I.C.F. Book Shop, 4, The Sanctuary, London S.W.1.; or the Social Institute, 2, Rue de Montchoisy, Geneva.